missioner and two Election Commissioners. It also favours that the method of appointment and the constitutional protection after appointment should ble the same for the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.

(xix) The Election Commission favours an independent secretariat for it.

(xx) The Election Commission is not in favour of the Chief Electoral Officer being exclusively for election work.

B. *The other proposals made by the Election Commission*

1. Strengthening of section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 by providing that any person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more should be debarred from contesting elections for a period totalling the sentence imposed plus an additional six years. It has further suggested that any person accused of any offence punishable with imprisonment for five years or more should be disqualified after the competent court has framed charges against him.
2. The Election Commission should be empowered to frame disciplinary rules in respect of persons deployed on election duty.
3. Statutory ban on transfer of election officers on the eve of election.
4. Proxy voting for service voters.
5. Appointment of an appellate authority in districts against orders of Electoral Registration Officers.
6. Making Consultation with Election Officers compulsory for police arrangements during elections.
7. Making of false declaration in connection with elections to be an offence.
8. Rule making authority to be vested in Election Commission.

Increase in number of Judges in High Courts and Subordinate Courts

1041. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases, both Civil and Criminal, pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts;

(b) the reasons for a large number of pending cases; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to increasse the number of Judges as well as improving the infrastructure in High Courts and Subordinate Courts for timely administration justice?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) A Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(b) The pendency of cases is due to various complex factors including increassed insitution of cases, population explosion, granting of adjournments, radical change in the pattern of litigation, long arguments and lawyers' strike, etc.

(c) Besides increasing the Judges strength from time to time, the Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Steps are also taken to strengthen the existing infrastructure by providing funds for the construction of court buildings and residential premises for the Judges/Judicial Officers, adopt Lok Adalats and other alternative modes of dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation and negotiation.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the High Courts	Civil	Criminal	Total (As on 30-6-98)
1.	Allahabad(*)	724530	140925	865455
2.	Andhra Pradesh	133964	6723	140687
3.	Bombay(@)	220370	19523	239893
4.	Calcutta	253872	31970	285842
5.	Delhi	152183	12222	164405
6.	Gauhati(@)	29802	4403	34205
7.	Gujarat	106288	15644	121932
8.	Himachal Pradesh	11601	2497	14098
9.	J & K	94014	3651	97665
10.	Karnataka	100303	4762	105065
11.	Kerala	260924	9706	270630
12.	Madhya Pradesh	54607	34117	88724
13.	Madras	312281	24352	336633
14.	Orissa(@)	82278	7010	89288
15.	Patna	65939	13543	79482
16.	Punjab & Haryana	142031	24293	166324
17.	Rajasthan	81137	18072	99209
18.	Sikkim	421	16	437
		2826545	373429	3199974

(*) As on 31st December, 1996
(@) As on 31st March, 1998

Supreme Court	No. of cases pending		
	Civil	Criminal	Total
As on 1.5.98	16167	3394	19561

Implementation of Electoral Reforms

1042. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Law Comission has submitted its report to Government suggesting radical electoral reforms;

(b) if so, the details of major recommendation made and implications thereof;

(c) what is the reaction of the Government, Election Commission and major National/Regional Political Parties to these recommendations; and

(d) the details of time schedule worked out for finalisation and implementation of the Electoral Reforms?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Short Term Measure for meeting Demand of Power

1043. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has in the recent past reviewed the power situation in the country;